

FBIS-LAT-88-046
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MEXICO - *drugs*

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Sepulveda on Bennett Drug Remarks, Panama

FL081818 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1637 GMT 4 Mar 88

[By Roberto Gonzalez Perez]

[Excerpt] New York, 4 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has stated here that as long as drug consumption and money laundering do not cease in the United States, the drug problem is going to be difficult to resolve. Sepulveda urged the United States to take action to stop drug use before it attempts military intervention in drug-producing nations.

Asked yesterday about statements by U.S. Education Secretary William J. Bennett that Washington should use military force to prevent the cultivation and traffic of narcotics in foreign countries, the Mexican official declared: I believe the secretary of education should concentrate on areas under his purview: the education of American citizens to prevent the use of drugs.

As to Panama's political crisis, Sepulveda stated that Mexico is applying the Estrada doctrine in this case. It rejects the policy of recognition as an undesirable practice. Mexico, he added, does not characterize any regime; it only withdraws its ambassador if it deems it to be necessary. [passage omitted]

President Creates Antidrug Commission

PA031847 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting against drug trafficking took place in Mexico City, presided over by President Miguel de la Madrid. He said that the struggle against drug trafficking is now a state issue. He said it is imperative that consumption be controlled and that the operation of drug trafficking be affected.

While heading this meeting on drug trafficking, President de la Madrid requested a progress report every 2 months on the struggle against this problem.

The president also ordered the formation of a special commission to combat drug trafficking along the borders.

Pemex Reports Oil Prices for Far East

FL050355 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0004 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Pemex reported this afternoon that Mexican export crude oil prices for the Far East dropped \$00.47 and \$00.52 in February. Pemex reported that the average price of Isthmus (light) type oil for those markets was \$15.48 a barrel compared to \$15.95 in January and \$13.35 the previous month. Pemex noted that in January, the prices of Mexican export crude oil had increased between \$00.05 and \$00.10. Crude exports to the Far East in February represented 16 percent of the total sales of Mexican oil abroad.

PRC Trade Official En Route to Cuba, Brazil

FL081801 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0516 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Jia Shi, president of foreign trade [title as received—he is the chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade] of the PRC, said his country favors North-South dialogue to resolve trade problems between the two hemispheres. Interviewed at the Mexico City airport, where he stopped over on his way to Cuba and Brazil, Jia Shi added that the main trade problem in the world is that industrialized countries sell their manufactured products at high prices, whereas the developing nations' raw materials are sold cheap. This situation must be corrected; he said.

Jia noted that relations between the PRC and Mexico have of late experienced rapid growth.

He also said that his country has always come out for fair foreign trade practices based on equality and reciprocity. That is why the PRC is now negotiating to join GATT, Jia concluded.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

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Belize

Secret Talks Held With Guatemala; More Expected
FL081735 Bridgetown CANA in English
1957 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 7, CANA — Belize's foreign minister held a secret meeting with Guatemalan officials in Miami recently in an apparent bid to restart stalled discussions related to a settlement of the long-standing territorial dispute between the two countries, government sources said.

There has been no official word from government regarding the meeting, but a well-placed source told CANA on Monday that Barrow's Miami visit was highly confidential, and cited the possibility of further talks within a month.

Belize's ambassador to the United States, Edward Laing, also took part in the discussions with Barrow.

Prior to the recent meeting, the last round of talks on the dispute between Belizean and Guatemalan officials was held in Miami last April.

That session was attended by British Government officials and representatives from the opposition People's United Party (PUP), but the talks became deadlocked after the Guatemalans maintained that Belize must give up some of its territory in exchange for a settlement.

Barrow told the United Nations General Assembly last October that the breakdown was only a temporary hiccup.

El Salvador

Duarte's Son Denies Links to Alleged Embezzler
PA081430 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Report on 7 March statements by Alejandro Duarte, mayoral candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, by reporter Marco Antonio Guevara; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Duarte] "I believe this case will have a great political impact at the national and international levels regardless of whether the charges are true or false. I do not wish to make value judgments on this case at this point. However, I do believe it is essential and important to learn the truth."

[Guevara] According to a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES, President Duarte's son and Alternate Deputy Luis Mejia could be involved in the diversion of \$2 million through CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction].

[Duarte] "Today I will undertake an initiative within my party, and I will ask the Political Commission to discuss this case immediately. We have called a meeting for this afternoon. I will request that a file be opened at the Legislative Assembly. Mejia is an alternate deputy. I will ask that a file be opened immediately. I will ask that we go to the office of the prosecutor and that the party request an investigation. We will ask the state to employ all means to investigate this case and to learn the truth.

"If this turns out to be true, Mejia should be condemned. However, if this is false, then our party and the people that have been affected must be appropriately compensated for damages."

[Guevara] Alejandro Duarte denied any type of business association with Luis Mejia. I did not propose his candidacy, and I am not defending him either, he added.

[Duarte] "I insist that I have no link or association with Luis Mejia. I do not wish to make any value judgments in this regard, and I believe there must be a careful investigation to learn the truth as soon as possible."

[Unidentified speaker] "What about his candidacy?"

[Duarte] "The PDC must review Luis Mejia's candidacy. I believe the party must do this very quickly to answer the people's concern."

[Guevara] Given the circumstances, Luis Mejia must be absolved, otherwise the PDC will have to reevaluate his candidacy, Alejandro Duarte added. There will be a news conference this afternoon, and it is most probable that Luis Mejia will attend it.

Honduras

No Extradition for Alleged Drug Trafficker
PA081241 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Report by Carlos Interiano]

[Text] In statements this weekend in San Marcos, Santa Barbara Department, President Jose Azcona said that [alleged drug trafficker] Juan Ramon Matta is protected by the Constitution and cannot be legally extradited. Let us listen to these important statements for Radio America:

[Begin recording] [Azcona] We must recognize that Honduras is a very weak country and that it finds itself caught between the large U.S. drug market and the great South American drug producers. Honduras therefore has been used as an intermediate point, as a crossroads, for transporting drugs to the United States. However, it is also true that drug traffickers have been hit very hard by the government, the Armed Forces, the Judicial Branch, and the Legislative Branch. We are all making an effort to continue attacking this evil with all our strength.

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[Interiano] What do you think of the possibility of extraditing Ramon Matta at the U.S. Government's request?

[Azcona] The Constitution protects him. He is Honduran by birth, and therefore we cannot legally extradite him. But I want to tell you a fact: Any foreigner, naturalized or not, accused of drug trafficking in Honduras will be turned over to the authorities of whatever country requests his extradition. Any foreigner that falls into our hands, naturalized or not, will be treated in the same way as Gonzalez and Guerrero [not further identified] were. Those who are Hondurans by birth are, unfortunately, protected by the Constitution. [end recording]

Briefs

Incidence of AIDS Increases

According to Dr Jose Enrique Zelaya, the Public Health Ministry director of epidemiology, 11 new cases of AIDS have been detected in Honduras. This brings the number of AIDS cases in the country to 105. The northern coast of the country has been the most affected by the AIDS virus, accounting for 75 percent of the country's cases. Females now account for 35 percent of the nation's AIDS cases. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Mar 88 PA]

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Comments on Cease-Fire Talks
PA090625 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2356 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua on International Women's Day—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Just about the time you were beginning to gather in this plaza, we were still attending a meeting concerning the Nicaraguan Government's initiative to begin a meeting tomorrow in Sapoa with representatives of the U.S. Government to discuss the cease-fire, and in this manner contribute to achieving peace so Nicaraguans will not continue to die everyday because of the U.S. Administration.

Up to just a few hours ago, we can state that everything was prepared. The U.S. Government representatives issued a communique on 3 March and tacitly accepted the meeting slated for 9, 10, and 11 March which were the dates proposed by Cardinal Obando y Bravo to hold a meeting in Guatemala. Yesterday, both Cardinal Obando y Bravo and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares had agreed to participate in the talks as witnesses. Mr Baena Soares even traveled this afternoon from Washington to Managua, where he is now.

The Nicaraguan Government was ready with a high-level delegation led by Army Chief Commander Humberto Ortega—FSLN National Directorate member and defense minister—to attend the meeting. The witnesses, the OAS secretary general and Cardinal Obando y Bravo were ready to attend the meeting. What was the reply of the Reagan administration?

It turns out that President Reagan was in Belgium. He returned and delivered a speech yesterday, a virulent speech against Nicaragua. That is nothing new. We feel he is the person who made that decision. He said no to the meeting.

If anyone is responsible for the failure of tomorrow's meeting, that person is the President of the United States. If anyone is responsible for the bloodshed in our fatherland, that person is the President of the United States. If there is a person responsible for the violations of international law, for violations of international legal order, for not respecting the wishes of the Central American rulers, of the Nicaraguan people, of the Central American peoples, of the U.S. people, and of the peoples of the world; that is the President of the United States. The reason for this is because he clings to his warmongering policy, he continues to demand more funds for death, and he thinks he can defeat the Nicaraguan people. His accomplices in Nicaragua think the same way.

We answered that we maintain our initial conditions for talks in Sapoa, for conversations in Sapoa, without any type of conditions. The witnesses are ready, the agenda will have to be discussed there, in Sapoa. If Reagan's representatives want to bring a 100-point or 200-point agenda, let them do so. We will have our own agenda to discuss to see if it is possible to comply with the Guatemala agreements, to see if it is possible to find a willingness by the U.S. Government to negotiate.

It is clear that we cannot go there to negotiate the revolution. It is clear that we cannot go there to discuss with the counterrevolutionaries whether women have a right to liberate themselves. They are against women's liberation. The revolution is in favor of women's liberation, and this is not negotiable. [applause]

We are not going there to negotiate the rights of the Nicaraguan people and of the legitimate Nicaraguan Government to arm themselves. They want an unarmed people, but the revolution wants the people to know how to defend themselves and therefore the people must be armed. That is not negotiable. [applause]

They are going there to ask or demand that the land that was confiscated from the landholders be returned. That land has been given to the peasants. They can say that, but the revolution will not negotiate that. They can go there to make their absurd proposals, their turncoat and treacherous proposals, but the revolution will go there to make proposals for the defense of the fatherland, for the